

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process yielding a copolymer comprising monomer units derived from ethylene and at least one vinyl ester characterised in, that wherein said polymerisation is performed in presence of at least one dendritic polymer, such as a dendritic polyester, polyether, polyesteramide and/or polyetheramide.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to Claim 1 characterised in, that, wherein said dendritic polymer is present in an amount of 0.1-20%, ~~such as 0.1-10% or 0.5-5%.~~

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~ characterised in, that, wherein said dendritic polymer is built up from a core molecule and at least one branching chain extender at a molar ratio yielding at least one dendritic generation.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to Claim 3 ~~characterised in, that,~~ wherein said core molecule is a di, tri or polyfunctional alcohol and that said at least one branching chain extender is at least one di, tri or polyhydroxyfunctional monocarboxylic acid.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to Claim 3 ~~characterised in, that,~~ wherein said core molecule is a di, tri or polyfunctional alcohol and that said at least one branching chain extender is at least one hydroxyfunctional oxetane of at least one tri or polyfunctional alcohol.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 3-5 characterised in, that~~ Claim 3, wherein said dendritic polymer is at least partly further chain extended by addition of at least one linear or branched chain extender and/or chain stopper.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to Claim 6 ~~characterised in, that,~~ wherein said at least one linear or branched chain extender and/or chain stopper is at least one alkylene oxide, at least one saturated or unsaturated aliphatic or aromatic carboxylic acid or at least one corresponding anhydride or halide, and/or at least one carboxyfunctional ester, polyester, ether and/or polyether.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 1-7 characterised in, that~~ Claim 1, wherein said dendritic polymer has at least two dendritic generations.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 1-8 characterised in, that~~ Claim 1, wherein said at least one vinyl ester is vinyl acetate, vinyl propionate, vinyl isobutyrate, vinyl 2-ethylhexanoate, vinyl versatate, and/or vinyl laurate.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 1-9 characterised in, that~~ Claim 1, wherein said at least one vinyl ester is vinyl acetate, and/or vinyl versatate.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerization process according to ~~any of the Claims 1-10 characterised in, that~~ Claim 1, wherein said yielded copolymer additionally comprises monomer units derived from at least one cross linking functional monomer.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to Claim 11 ~~characterised in, that,~~ wherein said at least one cross linking functional monomer is a monomer having at least one polymerisable vinyl group.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to Claim 11 ~~or 12 characterised in, that,~~ wherein said at least one cross linking functional monomer is at least one unsaturated organic acid amide, at least one N-methylol derivative of at least one unsaturated organic acid amide and/or at least one ether of at least one N-methylol derivative of at least one unsaturated organic acid amide.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 11-13 characterised in, that~~ Claim 11, wherein said at least one cross linking functional monomer is acryl amide, N-methylolacrylamide, N-methylolmethacrylamide, N-(iso-butoxymethyl)-acrylamide and/or N-(n-butoxymethyl)acrylamide.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 11-13 characterised in, that~~ Claim 11, wherein said at least one cross linking functional monomer is a glycidyl acrylate, a glycidyl methacrylate, and/or allyl methacrylate.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 11-13 characterised in, that~~ Claim 11, wherein said at least one cross linking functional monomer is at least one di, tri and multifunctional ester of a di, tri or polyhydric alcohol and acrylic and/or methacrylic acid.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~Claim 16 characterised in, that,~~ wherein said at least one cross linking functional monomer is butanediol diacrylate, dipropylene glycol diacrylate, hexandiol diacrylate, tripropylene glycol diacrylate, butanediol dimethacrylate, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, diethylene glycol dimethacrylate, trimethylolpropane triacrylate, trimethylolpropane triacrylate, ethoxylated trimethylolpropane triacrylate, and/or ethoxylated pentaerythritol diacrylate.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 11-13 characterised in, that~~ Claim 11, wherein said at least one cross linking functional monomer is at least one trialkoxyvinylsilane, alkyldialkoxyvinylsilane, acryloxyalkoxysilane, acryloxyalkylalkoxysilane, alkoxyacrylsilane, methacryloxyalkoxysilane, methacryloxyalkylalkoxysilane, and/or alkoxymethacrylsilane.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to Claim 18 ~~characterised in, that,~~ wherein said alkyl and/or said alkoxy is linear or branched having 1-4 carbon atoms.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to Claim 18 ~~or 19 characterised in, that,~~ wherein said at least one cross linking monomer is trimethoxyvinylsilane, triethoxyvinylsilane, triisopropoxyvinylsilane, methoxymethacrylsilane, and/or 3-methacryloxypropyltriisopropoxysilane.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 11-20 characterised in, that~~ Claim 11, wherein said at least one cross linking functional monomer is present in an amount of 0.1-10%, ~~such as 0.3-8%, 0.3-6%, 0.4-2%, 0.5-2% or 1-6%.~~

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 1-21 characterised in, that~~ Claim 1, wherein said yielded copolymer additionally comprises monomer units derived from at least one stabilising functional monomer having at least one radically polymerisable group and/or at least one colloiddally and/or sterically stabilising group.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to Claim 22 ~~characterised in, that,~~ wherein said at least one stabilising functional monomer is vinylsulphonate and/or sodium vinylsulphonate.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to Claim 22 ~~characterised in, that,~~ wherein said at least one stabilising functional monomer is acrylic and/or methacrylic acid.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 22-24 characterised in, that~~ Claim 22, wherein said at least one stabilising functional monomer is present in an amount of 0.01-5%, ~~such as 0.3-2% or 0.05-0.2%.~~

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~Claims 1-25 characterised in, that~~ Claim 1, wherein said yielded copolymer additionally comprises monomer units derived from at least one monoester of acrylic, methacrylic, crotonic acid, and/or isocrotonic acid.

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to Claim 26 ~~characterised in, that, wherein~~ said at least one monoester is a C₁-C₁₀ alkyl acrylate or methacrylate, such as methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, and/or butyl methacrylate.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to Claim 26 ~~or 27 characterised in, that, wherein~~ said at least one monoester is present in an amount of 0.1-50%, ~~such as 1-40% or 5-30%.~~

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 1-28 characterised in,~~ Claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of charged ethylene to charged vinyl ester of 1-60% ethylene and 99-40% vinyl ester, ~~such as at a weight ratio ethylene to vinyl ester of 1:99%, 10:90%, 15:85%, 40:60%, 50:50% or 60:40%~~ is employed.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 1-29 characterised in, that~~ Claim 1, wherein said polymerisation is performed at a pressure of 1-200 bar, ~~such as 3-150 bar or 5-100 bar.~~

Claim 31. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 1-30 characterised in, that~~ Claim 1, wherein said polymerisation is performed at a temperature of 0-100°C, ~~such as 5-90°C or 20-85°C.~~

Claim 32. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 1-31 characterised in, that~~ Claim 1, wherein said polymerisation is an emulsion, a solution, or a suspension polymerisation.

Claim 33. (Currently Amended) A pressure polymerisation process according to ~~any of the Claims 1-32 characterised in, that~~ Claim 1, wherein said yielded copolymer comprises monomer units derived from ethylene and vinyl acetate and that said copolymer is obtained by emulsion polymerisation.